

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 27, 2000

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We pray to You, Almighty God, and eternal God, ever-present to all our undertakings and all our needs. Touch every aspect of our lives with Your holiness. Endow us with faith as we begin a new week and these activities in the House of Representatives of the 106th Congress.

May Your Divine Wisdom direct all of our deliberations and be revealed in all the proceedings and laws framed by this government.

May the gracious work of Your Spirit in us preserve peace, promote national happiness and increase in the people of this Nation, dedication to industry, a sense of compassion for others and useful knowledge, so that the blessings of so many in this country may be extended to all with equal liberty.

May this House and this Nation be preserved in unity and enjoy the peace which the world cannot give, a deep and abiding peace, which is Your gift alone to give. We pray to You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2559. An act to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2559) "An Act to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. KERREY, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SENATOR STEVENS CHOSEN ALASKAN OF THE CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of our colleagues, who happens to be from the other body, who received a very distinguished award this weekend. The recipient of that award was Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska who was chosen as the Alaskan of the Century.

Now, this is a remarkable achievement by Senator STEVENS, since he has

served this Congress for over 30 years and served the State of Alaska with great distinction and great honor and integrity for more than that period of time.

I became acquainted with Senator STEVENS as a younger man in 1972 when I was finishing the service, as a law clerk for a Federal judge in Anchorage, Alaska, and was hired by Senator STEVENS, came back here to Washington, D.C. in 1972, and served on his staff as his staff counsel and legislative director and then chief of staff, until I got married and left this community of Washington, D.C. and the Congress in 1977.

Senator STEVENS during that time and ever since has been a wonderful teacher for me and a great friend of our family, as he has been for a generation of Alaskans who have come to respect him and his work in the United States Senate and his work for our country, as well as his work for the State of Alaska.

There is no greater advocate for the State of Alaska and for the American system than Senator STEVENS. It is absolutely fitting that he receive this Alaskan of the Century award. He has served Alaska as a resident before statehood and after statehood.

He served in the Alaska legislature achieving high marks there for his service to the State, worked for the solicitor for the Department of Interior before statehood, and then was appointed to the United States Senate in 1968, and has been reelected overwhelmingly ever since.

Senator STEVENS brings a respect for his State and our system to the Congress of the United States. He was elected as the assistant majority leader in the United States Senate. He went on to become chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate, a position which he holds today, with a special expertise in interior issues and public lands issues, and also a great experience in defense issues.

There probably is no greater expert in the area of national security and national defense than Senator STEVENS. The residents of Alaska recognize that, and, in choosing him to be the Alaskan of the Century, confirmed their love for him and reward him in essence for his great service to that State; a reward that he has undertaken with great passion and great commitment.

Senator STEVENS is not just a great legislator and a great American, he is a wonderful father to Susan and Beth and Teddy and Walter and Ben and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.